

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1	1. A method for processing a negotiable instrument, the method
2	comprising:
3	entering at least one negotiable instrument identifier into a terminal;
4	transmitting the at least one negotiable instrument identifier from the
5	terminal to a host computer;
6	receiving, at the terminal, a sign from the host computer, wherein the
7	sign indicates an authorization status of the negotiable instrument; and
8	automatically printing a mark on a document using a printer in
9	communication with the terminal, wherein the mark corresponds with the sign so as
10	to indicate the authorization status of the negotiable instrument.
1	2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of automatically
2	printing a mark on a document comprises automatically printing the sign on the
3	document.
1	3. The method of claim 1 wherein the mark indicates that the
2	negotiable instrument is authorized for encashment.
1	4. The method of claim 1 wherein the mark indicates that the
2	negotiable instrument is not authorized for encashment.
1	5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of automatically
2	printing a mark on a document comprises automatically printing the mark on the
3	negotiable instrument.
1	6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of automatically
2	printing a mark on a document comprises automatically printing an authorization
3	number on the document.

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comprising

1	7. The method of claim I wherein the step of automatically
2	printing a mark on a document comprises automatically printing a bar code on the
3	document.
1	8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of entering at least one
2	negotiable instrument identifier comprises entering a serial number of the negotiable
3	instrument.
1	9. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of entering at least one
2	negotiable instrument identifier comprises entering an amount of the negotiable
3	instrument.
1	10. The method of claim 1 wherein the negotiable instrument is a
2	money order.
1	11. The method of claim 1 wherein the negotiable instrument is a
2	gift certificate.
1	12. A method for authorizing a negotiable instrument for
2	encashment, the method comprising:
3	entering at least one negotiable instrument identifier into a terminal:
4	transmitting the at least one negotiable instrument identifier from the
5	terminal to a host computer;
6	receiving, at the terminal, a sign from the host computer, wherein the
7	sign indicates an authorization status of the negotiable instrument;
8	automatically printing the sign on the negotiable instrument using a
9	printer in communication with the terminal; and
10	automatically printing processing instructions on the negotiable
11	instrument if the sign indicates that the negotiable instrument is not authorized for
12	encashment.
1	13. A system for processing a negotiable instrument, the system

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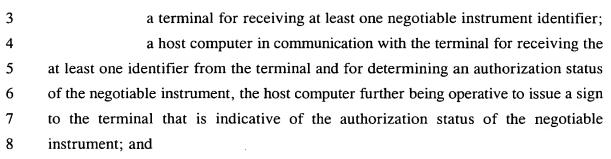
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a printing device in communication with the terminal for automatically printing a mark on a document, wherein the mark corresponds with the sign so as to indicate the authorization status of the negotiable instrument.

- 14. The system of claim 13 wherein the printing device is operative to print the sign on the document.
- 15. The system of claim 13 wherein the printing device is operative to print the mark on the negotiable instrument.
- 16. The system of claim 13 wherein the terminal further comprises an optical reader for reading the at least one negotiable instrument identifier from the negotiable instrument.
- 1 The system of claim 13 wherein the terminal further comprises 2 a magnetic ink reader for reading the at least one negotiable instrument identifier 3 from the negotiable instrument.
 - 18. The system of claim 13 wherein the terminal further comprises an image scanner for scanning the negotiable instrument so as to obtain the at least one negotiable instrument identifier.
 - 19. The system of claim 13 wherein the terminal further comprises a bar code reader for reading the at least one negotiable instrument identifier from the negotiable instrument.

20. A system for authorizing a negotiable instrument for
encashment, the system comprising:
a terminal for receiving at least one negotiable instrument identifier;
a host computer in communication with the terminal for receiving the
at least one identifier from the terminal and for determining an authorization status
of the negotiable instrument, the host computer being operative to issue a sign to the
terminal that is indicative of the authorization status of the negotiable instrument, the
host computer further being operative to issue processing instructions to the terminal
if the negotiable instrument is not authorized for encashment; and
a printing device in communication with the terminal for automatically
printing the sign on the negotiable instrument, the printing device further being
operative to automatically print the processing instructions on the negotiable
instrument if the negotiable instrument is not authorized for encashment.